

Call to Action: Make a Late Life Career Change

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If you're over 50 and thinking about heading down a new professional path, you'll need more than determination to land a job in a different industry.

Are you over 50 and contemplating a radical career change? You're not alone. As risky as this move may sound, there are many reasons why it might be the best decision for your financial well-being, mental health, and quality of life. Many people facing this decision have seen their careers permanently sidelined by the recession. Others are simply bored and ready for a change. And there are even those who've retired from their primary career path and now want to get stuck into something different—even something daring.

If you're about to jump ship and try something new in this chapter of your working life, keep a few considerations in mind.

Be patient

As both millennials and baby boomers mature, competition in the professional sphere will continue to escalate. It's simple to assume that the younger folks are pushing out the experienced ones, but it's a tad more complex than that. The Baby Boomers were an unusually large generation (hence the name), so job competition among your peers is fierce even without the budding professionals. Be patient and expect your search to last a little longer than it did the last time you stepped into the marketplace. No matter what, don't lose hope.

Before you act, organize your finances

Prepare for a slow launch period in which you may be working for a while as an underpaid newbie. In order to manage this transition period, you may need to downsize your lifestyle first. Plan ahead and develop realistic expectations about your potential income during the next several years.

Learn new skills, but don't overspend

If a few courses at a community college will get you where you're going, don't invest your life savings in an Ivy League PhD. Watch out for overinflated training costs, and avoid private for-profit companies that peddle fake college degrees. Be selective, and take control of your learning process; don't open your wallet for anyone who offers to sell you the credentials you need.

Find mentors

Try to identify someone who has already blazed the trail you're about to travel. Turn to this person for advice and feedback along the way. This way you can avoid easy mistakes and take advantage of available shortcuts. Don't reinvent the wheel, even if it feels like you're the first person in the world to embark on a career change at your age.

Research your new field

If you'd like to know something about your new field, never assume. In the internet age, the answers are right at your fingertips. Do some research. If you'd like to assess the number of open positions in your area, average salaries, the likelihood of someone your age finding happiness in this field, the personal stories of others who have gone before you, or anything else, look up your inquiries online (we recommend LiveCareer's [Career Tools](#)). In the process, you may discover a new option or a new corner of the industry that intrigues you..

Create a killer cover letter and resume

It goes without saying, but your cover letter and resume will need to stand above your competitors. You must go the extra mile to compete with others who are younger and have more experience in your new field. Turn to [QuintCareers](#) for tools and templates that can give you a leg up during the application and interview process.